

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CILCAIN COMMUNITY COUNCIL HELD ON-LINE ON 17 MAY 2021.

Present: **Chairperson:** Gareth W Hughes
 Councillors: Ann Baker J Emyr Davies
 Pauline Douglas Greg Foster
 Gwen Hardman Ian Hughes
 Ian Smith Cllr W Owen Thomas
 John Worthington
 The Clerk was also in attendance

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

Cllr Ian Hughes thanked Members and the Clerk for the support received during the twenty four month period.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Neil Hickie to the Meeting.

2. APOLOGIES - Cllr Janet Butlin, Cllr Jean Ramsay

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - There were no Declarations of Interests.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Resolved: The Minutes of the last meeting held on line on the 19 April were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as being correct.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON FOR THE ENSUING YEAR 2021/2022 (RHYDYMWYN WARD)

It was proposed by Cllr Gwen Hardman, seconded by Cllr J Emyr Davies that Councillor Gareth W Hughes be elected to be the Chairman of the Community Council for the ensuing year. There were no other nominations.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Gareth W Hughes be elected Chairman.

Upon his election, Cllr Gareth Hughes signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

6. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR THE ENSUING YEAR 2021 / 2022 (CILCAIN WARD)

It was proposed by Cllr J Emyr Davies, seconded by Cllr Ann Baker that Cllr Hardman be elected Vice Chairperson. There were no other nominations seconded.

Resolved: It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Gwen Hardman be elected Vice Chairperson.

Upon her election, the Vice Chairperson signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

7. TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO SERVE ON THE FOLLOWING BODIES:-

- (i) (a) Cilcain Cemetery Overseers (6) - six Cilcain Ward Members.
- (b) Rhydymwyn Cemetery Overseers (6) - six Rhydymwyn Ward Members.
- (ii) School Managers - Ysgol y Foel, Cilcain (1) -
- (iii) Cilcain Village Hall Management Committee (1)

Resolved - Cllr Gwen Hardman was nominated as the Council's representative on Ysgol y Foel Mangers Committee.

Cllr Ian Hughes indicated his willingness to deputise for Cllr Ann Baker if the need arises.

- (iv) Cilcain Bowling Club Management Committee (1)

Resolved - Cllr Ian Hughes was nominated as the Council's representative on the Cilcain Bowling club Management Committee.

Clerk to notify Bowling Club Secretary.

- (v) (a) Former Trimm Rock Quarry Site.

Whilst Members accepted it was unlikely there would be any future quarry liaison meetings arranged, it was agreed that one Member of the Council should be responsible for participating in any discussions between the Community Council and Flintshire Minerals.

Resolved: Cllr Pauline Douglas was nominated to be the Council's representative in any future discussion / correspondence between the Community Council and Flintshire Minerals Section regarding the former Trimm Rock Quarry site.

- (b) Hendre Quarry Liaison Committee - Tarmac (1) -

Resolved: Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Cllr Ian Smith nominated to be the Council's representatives on the Hendre Quarry Liaison Committee.

- (c) Lloyds Spar. The Council accepted that it was up to the Quarry Manager if he wished to have a liaison meeting. Members noted that Lloyds was not currently an operating quarry.

Resolved: Cllr Thomas, nominated to have regular dialogue with the Quarry Manager.

Cllr Pauline Douglas reported that currently the main complaint was the dust inside the yard. There did not appear to be proper spraying equipment on site to deal with dust complaints. A complaint had been received by Cllr Douglas from Barbara M-Hartfree, Is y Coed, Cefn Road.

- (d) Cefn Mawr Quarry Pantybuarth Liaison Committee (1) -

Resolved: Cllr Ian Hughes nominated to be the Council's representative on the Cefn Mawr Liaison Committee.

- (vii) Rhydymwyn Football Club Management Committee (1)

Resolved - Cllr Gareth W Hughes, Cllr Jean Ramsey and Cllr Janet Butlin nominated to be the Community Council's representative on the Rhydymwyn Football Club Committee.

- (viii) Rhydymwyn Institute -

Resolved - Cllr Jean Ramsay was nominated to represent the Community Council on the Institute Committee.

Members noted the existence of five other bodies where the Community Council has Nominated / Representative / Elected / Liaison Members serving:

- (a) One Voice Wales - Wrexham / Flintshire Area Committee - Clerk explained there are four meetings per year.
- (b) AONB Committee - The recent change in AONB constitution does not now accommodate a One Voice Wales representative on the AONB Executive Committee. Cllr W Owen Thomas indicated that he attends the AONB Meetings as a County Council Representative.
- (c) Rhydymwyn Flood Sub-Committee (6 No) - Rhydymwyn Ward Members.
- (d) Rhydymwyn Nature Reserve - DEFRA now appears to be holding ad hoc meetings with the various stakeholders. Cllr W Owen Thomas and Cllr Gareth Hughes have attended meetings in the past. This arrangement to continue.
- (e) Flintshire Forum -

Resolved: Chair and Vice Chair to attend.

8. **MATTERS ARISING: (Highway Matters)** - Streetscene Action Plan - dated 19 April 2021 - Mr Neil Hickie was invited by the Chairman to comment on the items on the Action List.

9. **MATTERS ARISING: (Non-Highway matters)**

p1 **Foul Smell, Dolfechlas Road** - Clerk reported - The data logging by Welsh Water had identified a significant amount of fat in the system. Mr Kelbrick explained that high levels of fat in the system can result in high odour levels. Mr Kelbrick was now arranging for the system to be jetted and a TV survey undertaken. The source of the fat deposit would need to be identified to establish whether or not the high fat levels was general or sourced from a specific area. The information collected by Cllr Ian Smith giving dates of high

odour level on the surface would be compared with the data logger information taken inside the system, to check for any correlation. In the long term, if the source of the problem cannot be identified at the Dolfechlas Road end of the pumping main, Welsh Water would need to have another look at the Hendre end of the pumping main.

- p1 **A541 Hendre, roadside hedge** - Item discussed earlier when Mr Hickie was in attendance at the meeting. The Chairman indicated he would speak to Tarmac regarding the issue.
- p1 **Village Hall Lease** - The draft lease had been received from the Council's Solicitor. Cllr Gwen Hardman explained that clarification was required on one item in the final draft. Cllr Hardman to seek the necessary clarification. The final draft can then be passed on to the Hall Committee.
- p2 **Bowling Club, Cilcain** - the Council had not yet received a communication from Flintshire regarding the transfer of the lease. Cllr W Owen Thomas maintained there would be a need for a site meeting to discuss the condition of the building prior to the physical handover of the building.
Clerk to contact Flintshire to establish the current position. Cllr W Owen Thomas suggested a site meeting should be arranged with Flintshire and the Bowling Club representatives. Clerk to arrange.
- p2 **Coed Du Hall** - Foul smell from highway gully. Members enquired who was dealing with the foul smell. The Clerk reminded Members that Mr Hickie had indicated in the March 2021 Council Meeting that he would be pursuing the matter with Coed Du Staff.
- p2 **Council cheques** - The Clerk reported that the Bank was now requiring the persons authorising the cheques on line to be authorised by the Bank. The Clerk explained that currently two Members and the Clerk had to sign every individual cheques. The online procedure for payment allowed the Clerk to make the online payment, but the Councillors authorising the Clerk to make the payment must be authorised by the Bank. Clerk to pursue four additional signatories to be authorised. Once this process is completed, the Council can then pursue an arrangement whereby every Council Member is authorised.
- p3 **Rhydymwyn Public Cemetery** - water main easement - Clerk to send a reminder to Welsh Water.
- p3 **A 541 Rhydymwyn - Pedestrian crossing scheme** - The Community Council had recently written to the Assembly Member, to express concern that it was extremely difficult to obtain an update position on the pedestrian crossing proposal. As a result, Members noted that the Community Council had now received a letter from Mr Steve Jones (Head of Streetscene) explaining the grant position with Pedestrian Crossings. (See item in the Correspondence Section of the Agenda).

Cllr W Owen Thomas felt it would be difficult for Flintshire to obtain a Welsh Assembly grant for a scheme due to the absence of residential properties on the Service Station side of the A541. If the Aggregate Levy grant scheme was to be resurrected, that might change the grant position.

Cllr Gareth W Hughes and Cllr Pauline Douglas felt the presence of the bus stop on the Service Station side of the A541 should be an important factor in giving the scheme priority.

Cllr Gareth Hughes stressed that pedestrians from the village had to cross the road to gain access to the highway footway between the village and Rhosesmor Junction bus stop and the Holywell bus route.

Cllr W Owen Thomas and Cllr J Emyr Davies felt the Council should request other Assembly Members for assistance for promoting this proposal.

The Clerk referred to the occasion when Carolyn Thomas (Deputy Leader of Flintshire at the time, now Assembly Member) had attended the Community Council meeting a few years ago. Carolyn had stressed the importance of stressing the community routes benefit of the scheme as opposed to the traffic benefit of a pedestrian crossing. (Carolyn referred to none of the traffic based assessment schemes being approved in the previous year in Flintshire, whereas, a number of the community route based assessment schemes were approved by the Welsh Assembly). A letter could be sent to Mr Lee Shone or Robin Nersaw requesting that Flintshire should consider changing the application from a traffic based assessment scheme to a community route based assessment scheme.

- p3 **Mill Terrace, Hendre** - Members referred to a letter received from Mr Ruairi Barry (See item in correspondence section below) giving an update on the current position. Mr Barry had indicated he was envisaging appointing Consulting Engineers in the next few months. Clerk to write again to Ruairi in a few weeks.
- p3 **Fly tipping A541** - Item discussed earlier when Mr Hickie was in attendance. Flintshire has no powers to deal with fly tipping on private land.
- p3 **River Alyn** - It had now been established that there is no river depth gauge at Loggerheads. There is a rainfall gauge near Loggerheads, which is used to predict the river flows in the lower part of the River Alyn. Clerk to write to NRW to ask if there is a need for a river level gauge at Loggerheads as well as the rain gauge.

The Clerk referred to a suggestion in the letter from Mr Chris Ebbs that the possibility of creating a weir / spillway arrangement in the Loggerheads area should be considered. The weir facility would direct a certain amount of river water into the Milwr Tunnel during storm conditions, thus reducing high river levels in the Rhydymwyn during storm conditions.

Members discussed the merits and disadvantages of using the Milwr Tunnel for regulating the flow in the River Alyn. For ease of maintenance, Members felt it was usually much easier locate and remove obstructions in an open river than if a culvert or tunnel was used for transporting flood flows.

Furthermore, in the last ten years, the Council has two examples in Cilcain whereby a swallow facility had worked for years, but eventually failed, leaving only the previous inadequate alternative drainage system in place.

Cllr W Owen Thomas referred to a proposal (over 20 years ago) whereby the river bed would be sealed for a certain section of the River Alyn in the Loggerheads to Hesb Alyn area, to prevent water leaking from the River Alyn into the swallow holes in that area. This sealing of the river bed would ensure river flows even in the summer months. Clerk explained that cost

of the proposal was very expensive and would only make the river more attractive for fishermen.

p4 **Mill Terrace, Hendre** - Item discussed earlier.

p4 **Pedestrian Crossing proposal, Rhydymwyn** - Item discussed earlier.

p4 **Coed Du Junction - Longitudinal crack** - Work completed reported to April Council Meeting. Item can now be deleted.

p4 **River Alyn, Rhydymwyn** - Tide flap immediately upstream of the DEFRA bridge partly obstructed with vegetation. Mr N Hickie to arrange for its removal.

p4 **North Wales Police** - Concern regarding the current difficulties of reporting crime incidents to North Wales Police. Meeting has now been arranged with Connor Freel. Meeting scheduled for 2.00 pm Thursday 20 June 2021. Various issues can be raised with Conner. Main items to be discussed:

- (a) Cefn Road - heavy goods vehicles ignoring existing traffic signs.
- (b) Difficult to contact the Police.
- (c) Trespass at former Trimm Rock Quarry.

p4 **Pothole funding** - Additional £500,000 recently given to Flintshire for pothole repairs. Clerk to write to Assembly Member to seek clarification.

p4 **Former Trimm Rock quarry** - Cllr Pauline Douglas reported on a recent incident whereby trespassers had erected a tight rope over the quarry pond. Cllr Douglas had already spoken to Connor Freel and was in regular contact with a representative of the landowner.

p4 **Dolfechlas Rd, Rhydymwyn** Chair reported on the site meeting held at 1.30 pm on Friday 14 June 2021. Cllr Janet Butlin, Cllr W Owen Thomas, Cllr Ian Smith and the Clerk were in attendance. Mr Nick Williams (Engineering Assistant) was in attendance from Flintshire's Traffic Section.

Improvements covered:

- (a) Sleeping policeman road marking to be repainted.
- (b) Slow / Araf Signs to be repainted.
- (c) White H-bar to be painted by the pedestrian entrance gate.
- (d) Additional signs to be erected to direct vehicles towards the parking area by the Cemetery entrance. This suggestion was made by Nick Williams. Cllr Hughes reported that Neil had ordered the signs already.
- (e) Ivy on the wall - Clerk explained that Flintshire was responsible for maintaining the boundary wall and hedge. The hedge on the Winnwood side of the pedestrian gate was being cut by Flintshire every year. The Clerk maintained the Community Council should not be incurring expenditure on items that Flintshire were responsible for. Chair requested the Clerk to ask Flintshire to deal with the ivy removal.
- (f) Nick Williams was going to measure the road width to establish whether or not the a priority route system / arrangement was possible at this location.

p6 **Cilan Lodge Road - replace seat** - Chair reported that he had sent several Members a picture of a metal seat he had noticed at Cadole. Clerk to contact Gwernymynydd Community

Council to establish who supplied the seat so that a price can be obtained. A decision had been taken in the April Council meeting to ask Neil if he would excavate for and provide the concrete base foundation. Neil had indicated he would arrange to put the concrete base in.

p6 **Cilcain play area** - Cllr Thomas had requested details of the proposal to be sent to the Council. The Clerk indicated he had not received any information.

p6 **Donkey Field Play Area** - Clerk confirmed having reported the lifting safety surface issue to Flintshire.

p6 **Donkey Field, Willow Tree** - Mr Neil Hickie had indicated he would deal with the tree in October.

p6 **Is y Mynydd, Cilcain** - Cllr Gwen Hardman to obtain the appropriate telephone number from the Clerk

10. PLANNING MATTERS

(1) Community Council observations requested on:

(a) Ref No: 062807
Proposal: Single storey extension / replacement roof / other alterations
At: 2 Church Meadow, Rhydymwyn

Resolved: The Community Council has no objection to the application.

(b) Ref No: 062587
Proposal: Change of use of Existing Barn to Residential Office Space
At: Siamber Wen, Cilcain

Resolved: The Community Council has no objection to the application. However, if the proposal is to be used for commercial purposes, the Community Council recommends that the condition of the access lane should be taken into consideration, since the access is not very good.

(c) Ref No: 062612
Proposal: Proposed Cattle Shed and Feed Store
At: Fron Farm, Hendre

Resolved: Members agreed that the application was outside the Community Council's boundary so no observations need to be made.

(d) Ref No: 062887
Proposal: Single Storey extension and replace flat roof over porch with a pitched roof.
At: 1 Church Meadow, Rhydymwyn, CH7 5HX

Resolved: The Community Council has no objection to the application.

Please Note: The incorrect plans had been included on the website which had caused some confusion at the Council Meeting. However the matter was taken up and clarified with Flintshire Planning. The Chair and Vice Chair confirmed the Community Council's observations prior to the submissions being sent.

Planning decisions made by Flintshire County Council: None received.

11. CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

- 1) 20/04 Drain odour, Dolfechlas Rod - Item discussed earlier.
- 2) 20/04 Tree obstruction in the River Alyn - four obstructions reported by Cllr Gareth W Hughes. Items forwarded to National Resources Wales. Cllr Gareth W Hughes reported nothing had been done
- 3) 26/04 Match Funding for play areas - Offer of grant for play area improvement. Clerk to send a Letter of Intent before the end of the month. Clerk to invite Mr Richard Roberts to a site meeting. Cllr Gwen Hardman suggested the Council should request advice from the Village Green Society regarding the possibility encroachment into the Waen Field.
- 4) 28/04 Traffic Matters in Church Meadow - Chair reported that the matter had been taken up with Flintshire at the site meeting on Friday 14 June 2021. Flintshire had forwarded technical information about the Welsh Assembly proposals for speed limits to the Council on Friday afternoon. Chair had forwarded the information onto the Church Meadow resident.
- 5) 28/04 Rhydymwyn pedestrian crossing - letter from Hannah Blyddyn (AM) and Flintshire's Mr Steve Jones. Item discussed earlier.
- 6) 29/04 Loggerheads Rd Cilcain - report and photograph of pot holes from Cllr John Worthington. Information forwarded to Flintshire Streetscene.
- 7) 04/05 Cilcain Village Hall insurance (not for public information). Request for assistance. Members were requested to note information in the Appendix regarding previous payments. Donation approved.
- 8) 04/05 Bryn Sholyn, Cefn Rd, Cilcain - information from the Planning Enforcement Officer regarding the enforcement action being proposed. Clerk to request a further update.
- 9) 05/05 Nant Alyn Road, Rhydymwyn - Report and photos of braches in the River Alyn received from Cllr Gareth W Hughes. Photos sent to NRW. Item discussed earlier.
- 10) 06/05 Cilcain Village Hall Lease - Email from the Council's Solicitor to report that the final draft of the lease is being prepared.
- 11) 06/05 Mountain Road, Cilcain - surcharging catch pit manhole - Report received from Cllr John Worthington regarding the catch pit surcharging. Theoretically this cover

should not be surcharging. Surface water should be flowing freely from the gully on one side of the road to the other side. The surcharging would suggest an obstruction in the line, or the catch pit is not being emptied. Item discussed earlier

- 12) 07/05 River gauge, River Alyn near Loggerheads - Information from NRW. Item discussed earlier.
- 13) 07/05 Opening of Village Hall, Cilcain - request from Hall Ctee Chair via Cllr Ann Baker for the Council's permission to open the Hall for its traditional use again. Permission granted.
- 14) 08/05 North Wales Police - email from Connor Freel suggesting a site meeting to discuss any recent community concerns. Item discussed earlier.
- 15) -- Neil's Action Plan for Members to comment on, and to add to as appropriate. Item discussed earlier.

- 12. **PAYMENTS OF ACCOUNTS** - The accounts scheduled in the Appendix for payment were approved.
- 13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7.30 pm Monday 21 June 2021.

SignedChairman Date: Clerk